

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Room 318: Bangs Community Center**  
**Minutes**

August 27, 2009

BOH Members: David Ahlfeld, Maria Bulzacchelli, Nancy Gilbert, David Kaufman,  
Sandy Sulsky  
Staff: Epi Bodhi, Pamela Field-Sadler  
Other: Linda Chalfant – Amherst LSSE Director

**Meeting opened at 7:07 p.m.**

**I. Review & Receive**

**A. Meeting Minutes**

1. Meeting minutes from July 16, 2009 -**Accepted as written**

**II. New Business**

**A. Appeal: 408 Shays Street**

The Board of Health reviewed and discussed a request for a time extension to comply with Title V regulations for the property located at 408 Shays Street. Amherst Health Department Inspectors feel the three (3) month extension is reasonable. Ms. Bodhi will send correspondence to notify the owner of the Board of Health's decision.

**Motion:** Mr. Kaufman made the motion, seconded by Ms. Gilbert, to grant a ninety (90) day extension in order to bring 408 Shays Street into Title V compliance.  
**Vote:** Unanimous

**B. Liaison for BOH and Agricultural Commission**

The Board of Health discussed the need to have a Liaison from the Board of Health to work with the Agricultural Commission in an effort to improve communication with the farming community. Chairman Ahlfeld volunteered to serve as the Board of Health Representative to the Agricultural Commission. Chairman Ahlfeld will contact Agricultural Commission Chairwoman Ruth Hazzard to discuss options for the BOH and the Agricultural Commission to work cooperatively in this effort.

**III. Old Business**

**A. Tobacco Regulations**

**1. Smoking Disclosure in Multi-Unit Residences**

The BOH reviewed the current revised draft documents of the proposed Smoking Disclosure Regulations submitted by Attorney D.J. Wilson. The BOH agreed, other than a modification to the definition of "Tenant" in

Section 4, no other changes will be made to the document content prior to the Public Hearing on September 17, 2009.

## **2. Smoking Disclosure Public Hearing: September 17, 2009**

The Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing during their September 17, 2009 meeting for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the proposed Smoking Disclosure in Multi-Unit Residences regulations. The Public Hearing will open at 7:10 pm. During the discussion the following was noted:

- Both the BOH meeting and Public Hearing will be posted with the Town Clerk
- The Public Hearing notice will be submitted for publication in the September 8, 2009 edition of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*
- Ms. Bodhi will contact Steve Walzack to discuss inviting local landlords to the Public Hearing
- The BOH will accept written public comment regarding the proposed regulations up to October 1, 2009
- Chairman Ahlfeld will contact Attorney Wilson to discuss opening statements

## **3. Open Spaces**

**Present:** Linda Chalfant – Amherst LSSE Director

Ms. Chalfant informed the BOH the LSSE Commission is interested in the BOH's thoughts regarding banning smoking on Town owned recreational spaces. Ms. Chalfant is not aware of any complaints regarding smoking on Town owned recreational spaces. Currently signage is in place to discourage people from smoking on the recreational spaces. The BOH explained their current criteria regarding smoking regulations is to provide protection against second-hand smoke for those who have no choice to be in the area. The BOH further explained there is no way to enforce a ban; a ban would be an effort to set a standard. The suggestion was made of the possibility of the BOH and LSSE jointly working to develop stronger signage. Ms. Bodhi will contact other towns with current outdoor space smoking regulations to inquire how they based their decisions to develop regulations. Ms. Chalfant will share the BOH's information with the LSSE Commission.

## **IV. Director's Report**

### **A. North Central-Franklin County Tobacco Control Alliance**

Amherst will no longer be serviced by North Central-Franklin County Tobacco Control Alliance due to large budget cuts they have suffered. Ms. Bodhi suggested contacting Eileen Sullivan at the Department of Public Health to share concerns regarding the elimination of services to Amherst. Attorney Wilson will still be available to the BOH for support.

### **B. Environmental Coordinator/Asst. Health Director**

Ms. Bodhi informed the BOH Ellen Bokina has left her position as Environmental Coordinator/Assistant Health Director.

### **C. Hampshire County Emergency Preparedness Coalition**

H1N1 has been the focus of the HCEPC leaving no opportunity for the Coalition to discuss organization. Ms. Bodhi will meet with representatives from Northampton Health Department and the Quabbin Health District for continued discussions regarding leaving HCEPC and forming a coalition.

**D. Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Application**

The Amherst Public Health Department, on behalf of the Northampton Health Department and the Quabbin Regional Health District, has submitted an application to PHAB in consideration to participate in a beta test. Funds in the amount of \$27,000 would be available for administrative costs.

**E. H1N1 Influenza Update**

Ms. Bodhi provided an update regarding H1N1 influenza. Ms. Bodhi stressed current guidance regarding H1N1 influenza is constantly changing. The preparation activities Ms. Bodhi has been engaged in include: discussions with the schools; submitting a press release; developing a list serve with all area providers; developing a H1N1 Table Top exercise. There will be an Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) walk through next week, and immunization clinics are being planned for both seasonal flu and H1N1 influenza.

**V. Board of Health Chairperson**

David Ahlfeld will serve as the Board of Health Chairperson for the upcoming year.

**VI. Schedule Next BOH Meeting/Agenda Closing Date**

A. The next BOH scheduled the following meetings:

- September 17, 2009
- October 15, 2009

**Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 p.m.**

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Epi Bodhi, Health Director

**APPROVED: 10-15-09**

